

Vol. 26, No. 51

December 19, 1983

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

CHINESE WEEKLY  
NEWS AND VIEWS

Deng Lihou  
on Cultural Policy



Mao Zedong's  
Economic Thinking



About Humanism



# LETTERS

## Correct Appraisal of Mao Zedong's Role

The recent articles by Deng Xiaoping attempting to get a correct perspective on the role of Mao Zedong reminded me that I heard a prediction in 1926 that Mao and his followers were going to be successful because they had a philosophy of being honest and treating the peasants with fairness.

I particularly appreciate your analytical articles which outline your policies and the reasons for them. Your explanations of financial matters indicate that your central control is very flexible, but your authority for making changes is not clear enough. Your criticisms of Soviet errors in world affairs are very refreshing but raises the questions whether China has made any errors in world affairs.

Eugene V. Dennett  
Seattle, WA, USA

The article about Zhao Ziyang's press conference in Dar-es-Salaam (issue No. 4) was brilliant, particularly that part dealing with Mao Zedong Thought. I am glad to see that China is once again fighting to restore the true features of Mao Zedong Thought after the sad period when the gang of four behaved hypocritically, using Mao Zedong Thought for their turbulent and anti-socialist activities. The implementation of the new Constitution and the successful convocation of the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of China correctly interpreted the just principles of Mao Zedong Thought, and made it impossible for those days to return. *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping* and the works of Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Liu Shaoqi embody the solid and secure path to modernization.

In addition, the article "The Initial Stage of Communism" in issue No. 5 is the best in that issue. I much prefer these theoretical articles, and learn a great deal from them. Heroes like Jiang Zhuying and Luo Jianfu belong not only to China, but to the whole world. I think each issue of *Beijing Re-*

*view* should carry a theoretical article.

Luis Jose Fernandez Ordonez  
Pola de Laviana, Spain

## The Changing Role of People's Communes

While I find the new column "Notes From the Editors" quite comprehensive, I wish to read in the "Special Feature" column about the changing role of people's communes, which is undergoing obviously, after the agricultural responsibility system was implemented in 1980.

Is people's commune dismantled when its political role is taken over by townships? What will be the main economic functions carried out by communes and production brigades? Such questions are worth reporting on. I wish to have a comprehensive picture of the people's commune in view.

Ho Lai-mui  
Xianggang (Hongkong)

## More on Sino-Soviet Relations

I have found the article in the November 21, 1983 issue (No. 47) "Sino-Soviet Relations in the Early 1950s" extremely well done. This is a part of history that I know very little about. I found this article well written and informative. I would like to see more articles like this, as it fills a very empty information gap. Keep up the good work.

Michael Garrison  
El Cajon, CA, USA

## Fulfillment of Economic Plans

I have noticed that your magazine has paid a good deal of attention to the fulfilment of the economic plans. I'd like to say that I have always considered the comparative statistics in these articles to be of great value, because they offer your readers careful, objective facts which help us to better understand the situation.

I hope you will continue to carry these articles concerning the growth of agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. They help present a better picture of China.

Jose Luis Diaz Mira  
Madrid, Spain

## A Turning Point In Chinese History

### Zhou Enlai and the Xian Incident — An Eyewitness Account

by Luo Ruiqing, Lu Zhengcao & Wang Bingnan

This booklet records the outbreak, development and peaceful settlement of the Xian Incident, in which Chiang Kai-shek and dozens of his high-ranking officials were detained by two patriotic Kuomintang generals who tried to compel the former to resist Japan. It describes Zhou Enlai's contribution to the settlement of the incident in the interests of the Chinese nation.

The personal experience of the authors, who were all witnesses to the Xian Incident and suppliers of the first-hand material, make this booklet interesting reading.

Published by Foreign Languages Press, Beijing  
Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation  
(Guoji Shudian),  
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China



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Distributed by China Publications  
Centre (GUOJI SHUDIAN),

P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Subscription prices (1 year):

Australia . . . . A. \$12.00 USA . . . . US\$13.00

New Zealand . . NZ. \$14.00 UK . . . . £6.80

Canada . . . . Can. \$15.00

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Deng Liqun on Cultural Policy

Deng Liqun again stressed the policy of "making the past serve the present and things foreign serve China," at two national conferences on culture and radio and television. He said Western culture should be analysed for its positive and negative aspects before it is absorbed for China's use (p. 5).

### On Humanism

China's discussion on humanism has aroused many misunderstandings abroad. Socialist China opposes bourgeois, abstract humanism, but advocates a socialist humanism linked to our central task of economic construction, and to the class struggle which still exists to some extent (p. 4).

### NPC Condemns US Hegemonic Acts

Recent moves by the US Congress to create "two Chinas" are seen as crude interference in China's internal affairs, and contrary to the norms of international behaviour, according to a resolution passed by the Third Meeting of the National People's Congress Standing Committee (p. 8).

### Mao Zedong Thought on Economic Construction

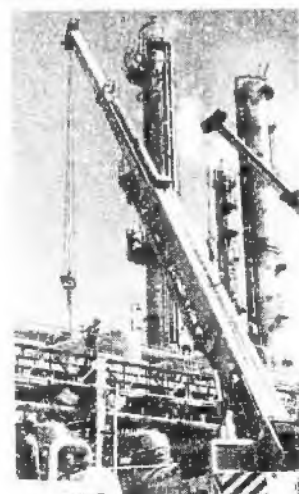
The important economic theories and principles Mao Zedong summed up from the experience of China's socialist construction are explained. They continue to guide our socialist modernization drive and develop in the course of practice (p. 14).

### Wu Xueqian on China's Diplomacy

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said the rivalry between the two superpowers made the entire world tense, in a recent report to an NPC Standing Committee session. He affirmed China persists in an independent foreign policy with the rest of the world and also pointed out the key to solving the Kampuchean issue (p. 18).

### A Versatile Beijing Opera Actress

Guan Sushuang, in her early 50s, can play many of the specialized Beijing Opera characters. She is known even more for her devotion to her audiences. Her company recently toured northeast China with success (p. 20).



A view of the Beijing Qianjin  
Chemical Works.

Photo by Sun Yi

### About Humanism

Why does China oppose humanism? This question has been raised abroad since China's theoreticians, artists and writers have recently held lively discussions on the problem.

Marxists do not indiscriminately oppose humanism, nor do they believe humanism is an ideology which transcends all time, is free from class considerations and is common to all humanity.

As a socialist country, China stands for a socialist humanism (called revolutionary humanism during the years of our revolutionary wars) which coincides with the general goal of socialism, that is, to wipe out class exploitation and oppression and liberate the working people. All our work begins with the fundamental interests of the broadest masses, and serving their interests is the highest purpose of the state. In our society, we advocate showing respect and concern for others, helping those who have gone astray and reforming those criminals who can be reformed. During the war years, we advocated healing the wounded and rescuing the dying, giving decent treatment to captives, and not killing enemies who had laid down their arms.

Socialist humanism in China is linked to our central task of socialist construction. China is a developing country. The people's living and cultural standards are still not high.

Many jobs cannot but be strenuous. We advocate living plainly and working hard, and ask the people to subordinate their personal interests to those of the state and collective, or even to make some personal sacrifices when necessary. All these are based on conditions in the country, and are acknowledged by the people as the standard of social morality. Anyone who discusses the value of man from the abstract conception of humanism, possibly even coming to believe that China overlooks the value of the individual, restricts his development and neglects humanism, is actually seriously distorting the facts.

Socialist humanism is also linked with class struggle, which still exists to a certain extent today. In China, the dregs of the old society still exist, and are joined by some anti-socialist elements and criminals in the new society, as well as spies sent by some foreign countries. In order to ensure the smooth progress of the socialist construction and protect the lives and property of the people, it is necessary to suppress the destructive activities of class enemies both at home and from abroad. Those who talk about humanism abstractly and charge the Chinese Government with suppression of class enemies as "inhuman" have failed to grasp the real meaning of socialist humanism.

Marxists are against any abstract discussion of humanism. Such discussions, in fact, publicize the humanism of the bourgeoisie, which is essentially different from Marxism and belongs to the ideological system of the bourgeoisie. During the European Renaissance, in order to free itself from the shackles of feudal rule and religious authority, the bourgeoisie rallied around humanism to confront the theocracy. This action helped promote the development of capitalism in Europe. However, the core of bourgeois humanism is the individualism and egoism of the bourgeoisie. After the bourgeoisie won political power, they used humanism as an ideological weapon to cloak class contradictions, maintain the capitalist order, advocate class compromises and oppose revolutionary struggle. This has been further aggravated under imperialism. The imperialist and hegemonist countries invade and plunder the weak and small countries and kill their people. Where is there any humanism to speak of?

In socialist China today, there are some discussions of abstract humanism. It is only natural for Marxist theoreticians to analyse and criticize abstract humanitarian points of view during the present discussion, pointing out the mistakes they contain and the harmful effects they produce both in theory and practice. This discussion will enable China to hold higher the banner of socialist humanism, and guarantee the smooth progress of the socialist economic and cultural construction.

— Political Editor An Zhiguo

## Deng Liqun on China's cultural policy

In clearing away cultural contamination, China will "make the past serve the present and things foreign serve China, weed through the old to bring forth the new and let a hundred flowers blossom," according to Deng Liqun, member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

Speaking to participants at two conferences of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Radio and Television, Deng said the current work to clear cultural contamination had been the subject of quite a few well-intentioned reports and comments abroad. However, some took the distorted view that it is "suppressing Western culture." Such allegations, he said, were entirely absurd and inconsistent with the facts. China has always stood for an attitude of analysing Western culture, differentiating between its positive and negative aspects, and selecting what is progressive and healthy from it.

Chinese youth should be given access to foreign films portraying patriotism and opposing feudalism, or those adapted from world famous works and biographies of historical figures, as long as the content is healthy, he added.

China would not close its door to the ideological trends of the world, Deng said. Certain representative works, even those unwholesome in content, would be translated into Chinese to acquaint the people with world trends for their critical study. However, such translation work must be done systematically, he added.

Deng called for concrete analysis of human nature and humanism, from the standpoint of Marxism. Criticism of the abstract theories of human nature and humanism, and of bourgeois humanism and "socialist alienation" should all be done in a scientific manner, taking China's unique situation into account.

The aim of the Party consolidation and elimination of cultural contamination is to make a success of our economic construction which is the centre of the Party's overall task, Deng said.

As for the method, he said all successful experiences were to be followed, and repetition of past mistakes avoided. The clearing of ideological contamination is not to keep people away from pretty things, but to make life fuller and more beautiful, Deng concluded.

## Chinese-foreign oil co-operation

The offshore oilfields in the South China Sea, exploited through co-operation between Chinese and foreign companies, are expected to enter a period of large-scale operations from this month through the first half of 1984.

More than 40 foreign companies have joined China in searching for oil in the Chinese sector of the South China Sea since 1979. Geophysical surveys have been carried out, some 87,000 kilometres of seismic survey lines have been shot, a number of oil- and gas-bearing

structures have been discovered and several high-yielding oil and gas wells have been sunk.

Based on the results of primary surveys, China's offshore oil potential will be about equal to its onshore reserves. These surveys brought about the discovery of seven oil- and gas-bearing basins, including the Bohai Sea, the southern Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the Taiwan shoals, the Pearl River mouth basin, the Yingge Sea and the Beibu Gulf. These basins cover about one million square kilometres.

An oil group, led by Total of France, was the first to sign a contract with China in May 1980. The contract covered oil exploration and production in 11,000 square kilometres. In the past three years, 14 exploratory wells have been drilled and two promising oil-bearing structures located. The area may become the first oil-field in the Chinese sector of the South China Sea, initially producing an average of more than one million tons of crude oil annually.

The Atlantic Richfield Company of the United States, the second to join China, completed two exploratory wells in the first six months of this year. One well is expected to yield 1.2 million cubic metres of natural gas a day. To speed up exploration, the US company will add another drilling platform early next year.

The British Petroleum Company (BP) won the rights to joint exploitation over 9,000 square kilometres in the Pearl River mouth basin. More than half the work of geophysical exploration has already been completed on two blocks. The first

exploratory well is expected to be drilled shortly.

China has so far signed 12 contracts with 21 oil companies from eight countries on the joint exploration and development of China's oil resources in the South China Sea. The co-operation blocks cover an area of 38,500 square kilometres.

An authority from the China Offshore Platform Engineering Company said China's industries are comparatively weak in designing, engineering and constructing offshore drilling platforms. China will therefore continue to seek co-operation with foreign countries in its construction of new oil industry related factories and transformation of old ones.

## Food output up to meet demand

Although China's food industry has developed rapidly in recent years, people who want to spend less time in the kitchen are demanding more good, cheap convenience foods.

The Chinese people have a rich and ancient heritage of national dishes, but many have disappeared from the market. However, as the people, and especially those 100 million urban residents, have been demanding more low-priced food of better variety and quality, more emphasis has been laid on developing these delicacies and convenience foods.

Between 1979 and 1982, the value of food production increased by 10.4 per cent each year, surpassing the average annual increase of 6.4 per cent over the 28 years before then. Increased investment in food production has revived many of the traditional dishes. More than 360 local specialities were produced in Shanghai by the end of last September, and 5,000

were restored and developed in Guangdong.

Fast food has also arrived on the scene. In the past three years, 250 million yuan have been invested in Beijing's food industry, which is more than the total investment in the preceding 30 years. With this investment, the city will soon open four restaurants selling Chinese and Western fast food. More than 20 restaurants and stores selling traditional foods have also opened in the past two years, and more fast food

and traditional eateries are planned. Beijing has also developed scores of special foods for babies, young children and the elderly.

China's traditional foods enjoy high prestige throughout the world. Food exports have doubled in the last two years. In response, China's 50,000 food production enterprises are transforming their techniques, renewing their equipment and introducing advanced Western technology through foreign capital.

## Putting rural surplus labour to work

The production responsibility system, while greatly increasing productivity, has also created a new problem of surplus labour in rural areas. This is most prominent in the densely populated coastal areas, and Chinese peasants and sociologists have been working to find a solution.

In Zhejiang Province on the coast of the East China Sea, for instance, an average 380 people inhabit each square kilometre. After the responsibility system came to Zhejiang's rural areas in 1979, between one- and two-thirds of the labour force be-

came surplus.

Industrial enterprises have been set up to put these people to work. In Shaoxing, where rivers and lakes abound, one-fifth of the labour force out of a population of 1.09 million make wine, clothing or knitware.

Peasants are also encouraged to become specialized or key households. In Yiwu, for instance, where there are 536 people for each square kilometre, more than one-fifth of the county's peasant families are specialized or key households growing crops, breeding animals, processing farm and

A peasant feeds one of the chickens he has specialized in raising in Zunyi County, Guizhou Province, since 1978. About 48,000 yuan (about US\$ 25,000) worth of chickens is bred a year.





sideline products, weaving, and engaging in service trades such as commercial transport. These households usually expend about 70 per cent of their work in specialized production.

This shift of the rural labour force has greatly boosted the all-round development of the economy, and helped raise the income of the peasants. There are now about 15.64 million specialized and key households in China, or about 9.4 per cent of the total. New types of economic organizations such as

specialized villages, communes and service companies have also appeared in rural areas. These organizations, which show how good the prospects are for specialized commodity production in rural areas, will further promote the social division of labour.

Some sociologists have pointed out that the transfer of surplus labour in rural areas will greatly enhance the formation of small and medium-sized cities, thus avoiding a mass

exodus of rural workers into the big cities.

Professor Fei Xiaotong, one of China's leading sociologists, said this industrial direction is unique to China and quite different from the path taken by Western countries in the early stage of their capitalist industrialization. It will not have a destructive effect on agriculture or bring poverty to the peasants. On the contrary, this trend is inevitable in the course of agricultural modernization, when the peasants are becoming better off every day.

## Procedures simplified for intermarriage

A German woman who recently married a Chinese man is satisfied with the Chinese Government, which completed the marriage registration procedures in just one month.

Angelike Lange, an expert from the Federal Republic of Germany now working at *Beijing Review*, met her husband, a reference librarian at an institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, at an exhibition in Beijing.

On October 7, they handed in their application to the marriage registration office of the Beijing municipal civil affairs bureau. The office examined their application materials, and on November 2 conducted the registration and issued their marriage certificate.

Their wedding ceremony was held in the Beijing Friendship Hotel on December 4.

With the increasing contacts between China and other countries since the policy of opening to the outside world began, there have been more instances of Chinese and foreigners falling in love and getting married. In view of this, on August 25 the Ministry of Civil Affairs published some regulations concerning the procedures for Chinese marrying foreigners. Chinese citizens

who meet the requirements of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China, except for servicemen, diplomatic personnel, public security officers, people doing confidential work or any other important work and those who are serving prison sentences or receiving "re-education through labour," can apply to marry foreigners. Eligible Chinese citizens and foreigners who wish to marry can, with the required certificates, apply to the marriage registration office under the local government where the Chinese partner has his or her permanent residence. After the office has examined their certificates and deemed them eligible, registration will be carried out and a marriage certificate issued in about one month.

According to an official from the marriage registration office of the Beijing municipal civil affairs bureau, applicants, both Chinese and foreign, have generally been satisfied with the new regulations. In the three months since they took effect, the office has conducted the marriage registration and issued marriage certificates on schedule to all those who were eligible and has produced the required certificates. And more than twice as many marriage certificates were issued from September to November than in the same 1982 period.

## **NPC condemns US hegemonic acts**

Recent moves by the US Congress to create "two Chinas" have been condemned as crude interference in China's internal affairs and as a trampling on the norms of international behaviour.

A resolution passed by the Third Meeting of the National People's Congress Standing Committee on Dec. 8 said these hegemonic acts by the US Congress were seriously detrimental to Sino-US relations.

The resolution also endorsed Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's report on China's diplomatic work.

It said the NPC Standing Committee was greatly angered by the resolution on "Taiwan's future" adopted by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and by the amendment to the appropriations bill concerning the Asian Development Bank adopted by the US Senate and the House of Representatives.

The resolution pointed out that Taiwan is an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China. Reunification of the country is an internal affair, and no foreign country has the right to interfere in it.

The Taiwan question is the main obstacle in Sino-US relations, the resolution said. The meeting fully endorsed the Chinese Government's just position on this issue.

The United States must strictly observe the basic principle guiding Sino-US relations: namely, mutual respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the resolution said. Only in this

way can Sino-US relations develop smoothly.

## **China plans to join outer space treaty**

China plans to participate in the UN Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

A proposal to that effect was approved on Dec. 8 at the third meeting of the 6th National People's Congress Standing Committee.

By joining the treaty, China, a developing country with increasing activities in outer space, will further strengthen its co-operation with other countries in the field of outer space, and promote the just cause of the exploration and use of outer space for the peaceful and common interests of humanity.

## **Deng, US oilman discuss gas find**

Deng Xiaoping and the chairman of a US oil firm, the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) recently discussed the development of natural gas in the Yingge Sea off China's southern coast.

Meeting with Robert Anderson on Dec. 1, Deng, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, asked about oil and gas prospects in the South China Sea.

"The gas field we have found could not be an isolated discovery," said Anderson. "We are quite sure to find more oilfields."

Last June, a gas well producing 1.2 million cubic metres a day was drilled in the Sino-US co-operative prospecting zone in the Yingge Sea.

## **Trust called basis of Sino-US ties**

Sino-US relations should be allowed to grow steadily on a foundation of mutual trust, said Premier Zhao Ziyang as he met with a delegation of US state governors.

"Taiwan is the key issue affecting the growth of Sino-American relations," said Zhao. "We hope the US Government understands the strong sentiments of the Chinese people on this issue."

Zhao met with the delegation, headed by Governor Richard Snelling of Vermont and Governor Richard Thornburgh of Pennsylvania, on Dec. 8.

China wants progress in relations between the two countries, he said, but this can occur only if it was based on China's defence of its national sovereignty.

Zhao noted that a great potential exists for trade and economic co-operation between China and the United States. "We welcome more American entrepreneurs to invest in China," he said, "but this requires more farsighted and open policies from the US Government. We hope both sides will make concerted efforts to remove the obstacles affecting the development of bilateral relations."

Good relations between the United States and China are important to peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and the world as a whole, Zhao said.

"I am looking forward," he said, "to having extensive con-



tacts with US leaders during my visit to the United States next January."

"I believe this will help the American people understand the Chinese Government's desire to further promote Sino-US relations," he said, "and I hope my visit will be conducive to steady progress in this field."

## China honours contracts, promises

Premier Zhao Ziyang has congratulated three foreign oil companies on the signing of two contracts with the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) on Dec. 2 for the joint exploration and development of China's offshore oil resources.

Meeting with executives of the companies on Dec. 3, Zhao said: "China honours its contracts and keeps its promises. It will not change any clauses of its contracts because of this or that reason."

The executives included J.R. Grey, president of Standard Oil Company of California, and A.C. Decrane Jr., president of Texaco Inc., both of the United States, and F. Reviglio, chairman of the Eni Group of Italy.

Foreign friends, Zhao noted, although prepared to invest in the co-operative development of China's resources, still express concern over the shortcomings in China's economic legislation.

"This concern is unnecessary," he said. "In China, the contract has the same legal effect as the law. Besides, China's economic legislation is being perfected step by step."

Zhao reaffirmed that the CNOOC is authorized to handle all matters with foreign companies regarding the joint development and exploitation of China's offshore oil resources.

## Embassy takeover seen as a violation

A senior Foreign Ministry official has called Indonesia's unilateral takeover of the premises of the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta a violation of international behaviour.

At his weekly news briefing on Dec. 7, Qi Huaiyuan, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said: "The premises of the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia are owned by the Government of the People's Republic of China."

China, he said, maintains its right to make further representations and to put forward its demands to Indonesia in regard to the incident.

Indonesia unilaterally suspended relations with China in October 1967, and Chinese embassy personnel withdrew soon after.

Qi said China has repeatedly expressed its hope for a proper settlement with the Indonesian Government through friendly consultations in accordance with international practice and has put forward positive and reasonable proposals to this end.

"However," he said, "it is difficult to understand why the Indonesian Government ignored the reasonable demands of the Chinese Government and went so far as to take over the pre-

mises of the Chinese Embassy by unilateral action on Dec. 1."

This move, he said, was a violation of Article 45 of the 1961 Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations and International Practice and is unacceptable to the Chinese Government.

On the prospect of Sino-Indonesian relations, Qi said the present state of ties between the two countries does not conform with the development of the situation in the region.

"We hope relations between the two countries will be normalized as soon as possible," he said, "but the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side that these relations have not yet been restored."

Asked about Indonesia's demand that China issue a statement declaring that it will stop material and moral support to the Communist Party of Indonesia, Qi said China never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries.

"We are willing to develop relations with the other Communist Parties on the basis of complete equality and independence, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs," he said.

"Since it is known to all that we neither interfere in the internal affairs of other countries nor in those of other parties, there is no need to issue a special statement on the matter."



## Tripoli

**Israel condemned for its scheme**

**W**HILE Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and his troops were about to leave the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, Israel on Dec. 9 dispatched gunboats and helicopters to shell Al Fatah positions north of the city and blockade the nearby coast. This contemptible and barbarous attempt to prevent the evacuation of PLO forces and destroy them has aroused the indignation of justice-upholding people the world over.

Earlier, Israel had delivered a protest to the United Nations over the decision to allow ships transporting the PLO fighters to fly the UN flag. The notorious butcher, former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, was repeatedly saying that Israel would never allow Arafat to leave Tripoli alive. The Israeli authorities have also discussed ways to stop the PLO evacuation. These signs all show that Israel is attempting to use the internal conflicts within the PLO forces to destroy the revolutionary cause of Palestine.

When Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, its main aim was to destroy the PLO armed forces in one blow. This, however, failed. After the main PLO forces withdrew from Beirut, Israel then tried to profit from the internal conflicts within the PLO. But if Arafat and his troops were to leave Tripoli, ending the factional killing, Israel's sinister plot would fail. This is why Israel is trying by any means to prevent the

evacuation, hoping the PLO's internal conflict would continue to develop in Tripoli to the detriment of both factions and to the advantage of Israel. This again tells people that despite its internal conflicts, the PLO has only one true enemy — Israel. Victory for the revolutionary cause of Palestine will never come with internecine feuding and killing. The Palestinians must eliminate their differences and unite to defeat their savage

common enemy — Israel. They must learn from this bloody lesson and do nothing that saddens friends and gladdens the enemy.

The peace-loving countries and people of the world unanimously demand that Arafat and his troops be allowed to leave Tripoli safely. The Chinese people strongly condemn Israel for its military activities in the Tripoli region and appeal to all justice-loving people to prevent Israel's plot from succeeding.

— "Renmin Ribao" commentary (Dec. 11)

## Lebanon

**Visit fails to produce breakthrough**

**L**EBANESE President Amin Gemayel, at the request of the participants in the Geneva reconciliation conference, recently visited Washington to try to persuade US President Ronald Reagan to agree to a revision of the agreement last May with Israel on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. A revision would appease both Syria and opposition factions in Lebanon, who are dissatisfied with the agreement.

On the surface, the visit, Gemayel's third to the United States as the President of Lebanon, promised nothing new. Gemayel discussed the withdrawal of foreign troops, and once again the United States promised to keep its commitments to Lebanon. However, developments in the situation indicate there have been delicate changes in both the Lebanese and US positions.

First, the Lebanese Govern-

ment, while still relying mainly on US support, is now trying to reach an understanding with Syria following a recent thaw in Lebanese-Syrian relations. Recent statements by several senior Lebanese officials emphasized that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement was simply a means to expedite an Israeli troop withdrawal and Lebanon was prepared to accept any feasible substitute for the existing agreement. The fact that Gemayel's journey to the United States was mainly to seek Washington's support for a revision of the agreement shows Lebanon's frustration with the agreement and represents a conciliatory gesture to Syria.

Second, the United States, because of Syria's opposition to the agreement, has not made any progress in its attempt to stabilize the Lebanese situation. The agreement required dozens of shuttle visits in the region by

three consecutive US Middle East special envoys in the past year. Now, with this latest setback, the United States is beginning to readjust its tactics. It has recognized the importance of Syria's role in any Middle East settlement and has paved the way for a direct dialogue with Syria in an effort to prevent Syria from leaning further towards the Soviet Union. At the same time, it is helping to bring about internal reconciliation in Lebanon and a unified government. In addition, it is strengthening its strategic co-operation with Israel so that, when necessary, Israel will agree to participate in a new round of negotiations

masterminded by the United States.

However, the United States refuses to abandon or revise the existing Lebanese-Israeli agreement because it not only represents a diplomatic success for the Reagan administration but will also serve as a key to reviving Reagan's peace formula.

Because of America's close strategic co-operation with Israel and its refusal to a revision, Gemayel was unable to make any breakthrough on major issues during his visit. This may cast a shadow over the future development of the Lebanese situation.

— Yu Kaiyuan

threaten continental United States.

It seems that Moscow wants to exert stronger pressures on the West, encourage the anti-nuclear movement in Western Europe, deepen the existing US-European contradictions and influence the US presidential election in some way.

Actually, the Soviet Union has not shut the door tight. It is only seeking favourable conditions and opportunities for itself. Observers believe that it will not easily agree to resume the talks soon but will make hard bargains instead. But judging from what the two superpowers have stated, one cannot rule out the possibility of having the START and Euromissile talks continue in combination some day.

Only time will tell when and how the two superpowers will resume their talks. But one thing is quite certain. So long as the two sides are as insincere as before, it will be impossible for them to reach a real agreement on limiting, reducing or destroying nuclear weapons.

— Xinhua correspondent

## US-Soviet Union

### Insincerity cripples START talks

**F**OLLOWING the recent breakdown of talks on Euromissiles, the United States and the Soviet Union have suspended their fruitless negotiations on strategic arms limitation (START) without setting a date for their resumption.

Moscow has said that with the deployment of new US missiles in Europe already under way, changes in the global strategic situation make it necessary for it to review all problems that were under discussion at the START negotiations.

Washington said that it remains willing to negotiate with Moscow on the two questions either separately or in combination.

The two approaches reflect the different calculations of Moscow and Washington.

The United States, despite deploying new intermediate mis-

siles in Western Europe and making no substantial concessions in the START talks, wants to pass itself off as eager for arms reduction while making Moscow appear responsible for the breakdown of the talks. In so doing, it aims to pacify the anti-nuclear movement in Western Europe, ease the contradictions between the United States and European countries and help US President Ronald Reagan to beat his opponents in the presidential election next year.

The Soviet Union, while holding to its tough stance on future resumption of talks, has proceeded to deploy more SS-20 missiles directed at Western Europe. It has also started deploying new tactical-operational missile systems in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, and even plans to deploy more submarine-based missiles that could directly

## Soviet Union

### Joys, anxieties of Muscovites

**M**OSCOW has returned to a world of ice and snow. To the 8 million Muscovites, this winter has seen some encouraging changes. But their anxieties and worries have increased too.

Housewives queuing up at markets told me that they be-



lieved the present supplies of meat, sausage, milk products, vegetable oil and vegetables, though far from sufficient, were much better than they had been in the past two years. This increase mirrors the slight improvement in Soviet agriculture after four successive years of poor harvests.

The variety of manufactured consumer goods in shops has also increased. The government recently announced price cuts for some overpriced or poor-quality products, including televisions, refrigerators and watches. Official statistics show that for the first time the country has stopped the long decline in the rate of growth of the national industrial output value, which registered a 4.2 per cent increase in the first 10 months of this year, compared with the corresponding period in 1982.

The typical Muscovites appraise the progress made here and across the country favourably. But they also wish a speedier solution to the many pressing problems that remain in Soviet economic and social life.

At the same time, many Soviet citizens feel anxious about the escalating arms race and the increasing danger of war.

The United States' new medium-range Pershing II missiles, which it is deploying in Western Europe, can hit important targets in the Soviet Union in a mere five or six minutes. The Soviet Union, which already has large numbers of powerful SS-20 missiles based in its own territory, has in turn announced more retaliatory measures against Western Europe and the United States.

US military spending is climb-

ing, and Soviet leaders have repeatedly stressed that they would never allow the United States to gain superiority in the arms race. When one remembers that the Soviet national income is less than 70 per cent of that of the United States, one can see what a heavy burden the Soviet people must shoulder in a large-scale arms race.

The Soviet people are against war and love peace. They know that the arms race will not bring them any good.

### *European Community*

## **Summit fails to reach agreement**

THE recent summit of the 10-nation European Community (EC) failed to settle major internal differences or resolve its financial difficulties. At the thrice-yearly meeting, held in Athens from Dec. 4 to 6, Britain and France were at odds over the EC budget and agricultural policy.

Britain considers its contributions to the EC budget unreasonably high and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher continued to press for a long-term reform of the current contribution quotas. French President Francois Mitterrand, refusing to accept any move which he considers violates the spirit of the Treaty of Rome (under which the community was founded 25 years ago), rejected Thatcher's demand that Britain's contribution be limited. Both leaders were firm in their stands.

The current agricultural policy, which went into force in 1962, guarantees minimum

"There is no doubt that we all feel worried about such a tense situation," a retired engineer named Fedchenko, who has survived the previous two world wars, told the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia*.

A young mother of a newborn baby, told the same paper: "There are things in the world concerning everyone, including my baby boy. These things are crucial to a vital problem: war and peace."

— Wang Chongjie

prices for major agricultural products and subsidies for agricultural exports. This was intended to give farmers a high degree of initiative and to promote agricultural production in Western Europe. But over time, the policy's shortcomings have become apparent. Farmers, disregarding trends in supply and demand, have overproduced certain commodities, particularly dairy products and grain.

To dispose of this surplus, the community is paying "interference expenses" and "export subsidies" for agriculture out of its budget. This has led to an odd situation: rising agricultural production, together with rising expenditures. Of the total EC budget of US\$25,000 million for the current financial year, subsidies for agriculture come to US\$16,000 million. In October, the EC Commission had to freeze agricultural subsidies because of the heavy burden on the community.

Essentially a reform of the EC agricultural policy would have to balance the economic interests of the members. The Federal Republic of Germany and Britain have received little benefit from the current policy because agriculture makes up only a small part of their economies. They advocate frugality and cuts in the EC agricultural budget, and seek a policy that restricts rather than encourages production. On the other hand, France, Italy and other countries, which rely more on agriculture, want to increase EC revenues and raise the value-added tax deduction rate from 1 per cent to 1.8 per cent, which would increase the burden on the more industrialized countries. The two sides are completely opposed. To adopt the proposals of one would harm the interests of the other.

Connected with agricultural policy reform is the British rebate. As mainly an industrial country and importer of agricultural products, Britain is making the greatest fiscal contributions to the EC next to Germany. Because it receives smaller subsidies each year, it is paid a rebate by the community. This rebate has long been the cause of quarrels among member states, with Britain saying: "Fair share of the financial burden." How to rebate and how much to rebate will be difficult to negotiate.

Because no member country will put aside its own interests and compromise, the EC economic crisis remains. Whether the next summit, scheduled for March 19 in Brussels, will do any better remains to be seen.

—Ren Yan

## Uruguay

# Wave of democracy sweeping in

**M**ONTEVIDEO, home for half of Uruguay's population, has seen widespread anti-government activities recently. On Dec. 1, thousands spontaneously took to the streets in indignation after President Gregorio Alvarez went on television to condemn an anti-government rally by 400,000 people four days earlier.

In the past few months, more than three large anti-government "protest days" have been organized by political parties and mass organizations to demand the restoration of democracy. On Nov. 5, several thousand demonstrators even clashed with troops and police. The frequent rallies and demonstrations reflect the Uruguayan people's strong desire to end military rule.

Following the military coup in June 1973, the armed forces almost repressed democracy. Military intervention in civilian affairs led to the closing of Congress and a ban on activities of all political parties.

In recent years, the country has been beset with economic recession and social contradictions have sharpened. Uruguay's total foreign debt has reached US\$4,000 million, or more than \$1,000 for each person. Runaway inflation reached 40 per cent in 1982, double that of 1981. The annual income dropped 9.5 per cent in 1982 and the current unemployment stands at 15 per cent.

Though the military authorities had to make some concessions to relax social contradictions and keep the country stable, the severe economic problems have aroused dissatisfaction with the government.

President Alvarez, when he took office in 1981, had announced that there would be a return to democracy and civilian government through elections.

In June 1982, the military authorities partly lifted the restrictions on three political parties—the Blanco, the Colorado and the Civic Union. They also launched a "political dialogue" with the three parties in May this year. The dialogue was a major event in the Uruguayan democratization drive.

However, since the military and political parties could not iron out differences between them, their dialogue was suspended several times.

On Aug. 2, the military authorities announced that the three political parties would not be allowed to take part in any open political activities and forbade the press and radio to criticize the government's decision. The deteriorating situation aroused worries among the people about the future of the democratization movement.

The Uruguayan people's demand for democracy is influenced by the democratization movement sweeping Latin America. In the past few years, civilian governments in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and other countries have been set up one after another through elections. People want an end to military regimes. A wave of democracy is surging through the continent. The successful general election held in Argentina last Oct. 30 also gave an impetus to the Uruguayan people. The democratization movement has become an irresistible current.

—Ren Ping

# Mao Zedong's Thought on Socialist Economic Construction

by Zhang Gong

*This article marks the forthcoming 90th birthday of Mao Zedong (December 26). The author, a staff member of the Party History Research Centre under the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, shows that Mao Zedong made major contributions to leading China's socialist construction. In the light of Marxist principles, Mao kept seeking a road to industrialization suitable to China's conditions. He also put forth and developed some important economic ideas, which still help guide China's ongoing socialist modernization drive. — Ed.*

**M**AO Zedong was a great Marxist. He made immortal contributions in leading the Chinese people to fulfil the democratic revolution and carry out the socialist revolution, in both theory and practice. He also rendered valuable services in socialist construction, although he made serious mistakes in this respect.

In recent years, some people at home and abroad have stressed his errors, neglecting or totally negating his economic thought. This is not correct. Therefore, on the occasion of Mao Zedong's 90th birthday, a review of his thought on socialist economic construction and its contributions to Marxist theory is still of practical significance, as the Party's line and policies since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee have inherited and developed Mao Zedong Thought.

## First Important Article

In April 1956 when the socialist transformation of the private ownership of the means of production was approaching its basic completion, Mao Zedong made public his famous "On

the Ten Major Relationships," his first article expressing his theories and policies of socialist economic construction. Drawing on the experiences of socialist construction in the Soviet Union, he made a preliminary summing up of our own experiences in construction, elaborated 10 questions concerning our socialist revolution and construction, and began seeking a road to industrialization suitable to China's conditions. The essence of the article was that we must correctly solve the various contradictions arising in our socialist construction. The economic thought embodied in it includes:

**Correctly handling the relations between heavy industry on the one hand and light industry and agriculture on the other.** Mao stressed that while giving priority to developing heavy industry, we must pay attention to the development of light industry and agriculture, so that the three can develop in co-ordination and support each other in the national economy. He said greater development in agriculture and light industry, so as to provide more grain and materials and increase the ac-

cumulation of funds, will not impede the development of heavy industry, but, on the contrary, will accelerate its development. Although this idea did not yet cast off the framework of focusing on heavy industry, it was already a breakthrough in the thought then prevalent in some socialist countries, which emphasized heavy industry to the neglect or even sacrifice of agriculture and light industry. Unfortunately, Mao's idea was not implemented after 1958.

**Correctly handling the question of rationally distributing industry.** In old China, imperialist aggression, the establishment of separatist warlord regimes, and the uneven historical development of different nationalities resulted in 70 per cent of the nation's industry being concentrated in the coastal regions. In the vast interior, however, industry was rather underdeveloped and the economy was backward.

Mao Zedong proposed making great efforts to accelerate the development of the industry in the interior, while still attaching importance to the use and development of existing industry in the coastal regions and readjusting the distribution of industry in the coastal regions and the interior. This would be conducive to the development of the whole national economy and defence construction.

In addition, he said that while developing defence construction, we should bear in mind the level of our country's eco-





Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai at the Beijing mass rally celebrating the success of socialist transformation in 1958.

economic construction. Particularly during times of peace, defence expenditures should not be too big, and our military and administrative expenditures should be reduced so that more funds can be released for economic construction. We should speed up our defence construction on the basis of the development of economic construction, and avoid expanding the national defence industry in isolation.

Considering the interests of the state, the production units and the producers, and not those of one side. This is the basic starting point of socialist construction, which involves the correct handling of the rela-

tionships between accumulation and consumption, between long-term interests and immediate interests and between the overall interests and local interests. The mishandling of these relations will directly affect relations between the state and the people, and will dampen the enthusiasm of the production units and the working people, thus damaging socialist construction. Our later practices have repeatedly proved this. The readjustment we made in recent years in the economy and the distribution system, as well as the production responsibility system now implemented in the rural areas, are precisely for the purpose of correctly handling these relations.

Enlarging the powers of the local authorities while strengthening the unified leadership of the central authorities. Mao Zedong's idea of changing the centralized, unified economic management system, enlarging the power of the localities and giving them greater independence broke the pattern of the Soviet economic management system and is still of important practical significance today. Due to our lack of experience, for many years we kept wavering over how to distribute power rationally between the central and local authorities. It was not until recent years that we found some appropriate systems and policies. But they are still far from perfect and need to be further studied and improved.

The relationship between the central and local authorities is a major problem in the socialist economic management system, and a reasonable way must be worked out. Our experiences have proved that negating the central authorities' unified leadership, unified policies, unified planning and unified financial administration is the same as denying the basic characteristics of the economic sector under socialist public ownership. On the other hand, negating the necessary independence and interests of the localities and enterprises will inevitably dampen their enthusiasm, reduce the vitality of the socialist economy and impede the development of the entire national economy.

**Learning foreign things with a critical eye.** Mao Zedong proposed that in learning from the Soviet experience in construction, we should combine it with China's reality. He said the dogmatic attitude which advocates copying and transplanting foreign things indiscriminately should be opposed, and he urged us to learn advanced things

from the Soviet Union but not its erroneous and backward things. Today, we should resolutely reject and criticize all decadent systems, styles and ideologies in capitalist countries. But, we should learn from their advanced science and technology and their scientific management methods (such as high labour productivity and efficient ways of doing business), so as to raise our own scientific and technological level and improve our management.

### **Mobilizing All Positive Forces**

Mao Zedong arrived at these scientific theses after summing up the practical experiences of the responsible members of 34 ministries and commissions under the State Council, and then submitting them to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee for discussion and study. We should continue to adhere to and develop these ideas in the future.

Mao Zedong made his famous report "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" in February 1957. He explained the basic contradictions in socialist society and set out his theory of how to correctly handle the two different types of social contradictions in our socialist society. He pointed out that in China "the large-scale, turbulent class struggles of the masses characteristic of times of revolution have in the main come to an end." The Party's tasks are to "unite the people of all nationalities in our country for the new battle, the battle against nature, develop our economy and culture... consolidate our new system and build up our new state."

For this purpose, he stressed the necessity of correctly distinguishing between and hand-

ling the two different types of contradictions, and set the correct handling of contradictions among the people as the focus of political life in our socialist country. He criticized the erroneous view that contradictions no longer exist in a socialist society. At the same time he reminded us to avoid confusing the two types of social contradictions, which are different in nature, and make a clear demarcation line between contradictions among the people and those between ourselves and the enemy.

This theory lays the foundation for the political and ideological work aimed at mobilizing all positive forces to work for socialist construction. It is also Mao Zedong's precious theoretical legacy, and his new contribution to Marxism-Leninism.

Of course, in our practical life, the contradictions in our socialist society are varied and complicated. In order to correctly handle contradictions among the people, apart from strengthening ideological education and practising criticism and self-criticism, efforts should also be made to readjust the interests of the state, the collective and individuals, reform existing systems, develop democracy and improve the legal system. These questions were all touched upon in Mao Zedong's works, but had not been further elaborated. Today, on the basis of inheriting Mao Zedong's theories, we should further study the contradictions in our present socialist society, con-



Mao Zedong delivering the speech "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" at the 11th Session (Enlarged) of the Supreme State Conference in 1957.

sidering our new situation and experiences.

### **Commodity Production And the Law of Value**

The "big leap forward" which started in 1958 was an unsuccessful effort which ran contrary to the objective economic laws. This was due to the Party's lack of adequate ideological preparation and experience in an all-round socialist construction, and its insufficient understanding of the laws of economic development and of the basic economic conditions in China. Moreover, Comrade Mao Zedong and many leading cadres, both in the central and local authorities, had become complacent with successes, were impatient for quick results and overestimated the role of man's subjective will and efforts. Before long, Mao Zedong himself realized this mistake and raised the questions of developing socialist commod-

ity production and using the law of value in accordance with Marxist theory in the course of correcting the "Left" mistake of rash advance.

At the time, a "communist wind" was stirring the rural areas. Some people rejected the law of value, proposing to abolish commodities and money and introduce a system of unified commodity allocation and distribution throughout the nation. Mao Zedong pointed out that this was an incorrect proposal which would dispossess the peasants and disrupt socialist ownership by the whole people, and should therefore be firmly opposed. He held that as long as two types of socialist public ownership exist — ownership by the whole people and ownership by the collective — commodity production is inevitable. The collectivized peasants can only accept trade and will not tolerate expropriation. To negate the exchange of equal values, to reject the law of value and to allocate agricultural products would expropriate the peasants.

Mao Zedong said, "The law of value is a great school." Only through making use of it can we teach the tens of millions of cadres and hundreds of millions of peasants, can we build socialism and communism. Otherwise, all this will be impossible. It was these correct theses which guided us in those years to check the serious "communist wind" and prevent the worker-peasant alliance from breaking down. Today, when we are enlivening our domestic economy and opening to the outside world, these theories become increasingly important in guiding our socialist construction.

### **Taking Agriculture as the Foundation**

Marx said agricultural labour "is the natural basis and pre-

condition for the independent pursuit of all other forms of labour." During the years between 1959 and 1961, when China suffered serious economic difficulties, grain became the first acute problem. Unless this problem could be resolved, it would be out of the question to solve other problems. In such a situation, Mao Zedong came to understand deeply that in an economically backward country with a large population as ours, in order to organize and develop our national economy we must take agriculture as the foundation. This means we must take the amount of grain and raw materials and the market scale provided by agriculture as the starting point for developing our national economy as a whole

In 1959, Mao Zedong stated that we must arrange the development of our national economy in the order of priority to agriculture, light industry and heavy industry. He stressed that we must first do a good job in agricultural and light industrial production and change the one-sided thinking

of emphasizing heavy industry to the neglect of agricultural and light industrial production. The 9th Plenary Session of the Eighth Party Central Committee in 1961 adopted the policy of readjustment, consolidating, filling out and raising standards. One of the main purposes was to readjust the scale and proportion of development of the entire national economy, so that it could suit the level of agricultural development at the time. In 1962, Mao Zedong further advanced the general policy of taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor in developing the national economy.

Our actual conditions, both past and present, have proved that the level of agricultural production (grain production first of all) is decisive to the speed at which our national economy develops. And the growth of agricultural labour productivity also plays an important role in this respect. Given this, the economic principle of taking agriculture as

*(Continued on p. 23.)*

Mao Zedong visiting an agricultural producers' co-op in the suburbs of Nanjing in 1955.





# International Situation and Diplomatic Work

*The following are excerpts of the report "Current International Situation and Diplomatic Work Over the Past Year" delivered by Wu Xueqian, State Councillor and Foreign Minister, on December 6, at the 3rd Meeting of the 6th National People's Congress Standing Committee. — Ed.*

**W**U said that the present international situation is very tense and turbulent. The rivalry between the two hegemonic powers is becoming sharper. Contradictions are intricate and complicated.

Sharp East-West contradictions characterize the turbulent situation, Wu Xueqian stated. The crux is the contention for hegemony between the Soviet Union and the United States, and the main issue is the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe.

The two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are conducting an all-round arms race and struggling for nuclear superiority. The confrontation between the two in Europe would become more serious, he said.

Contention between the two hegemonic powers for strategic positions in the third world has resulted in a series of "hot spots," Wu Xueqian pointed out. Turmoil in the Middle East is growing. The situation in Central America is quite tense. The confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in Northeast Asia is sharp. North-South contradictions are becoming increasingly acute. Some Western and many third world countries are beset with serious economic difficulties, he added.

The developed countries of the West, chiefly the United States, are shifting the effects of their crisis on to third world countries which have become the main victims of the economic crisis. Third world countries strongly demand establishment of a new international economic order, promotion of North-South dialogue and improvement of North-South relations.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, he said, China has persevered in an independent foreign policy. Basing itself on the real world situation, proceeding from the fundamental interests of the people of China and the world and following the ideological line of seeking truth from facts, China has made independent judgments and adopted tactics on major international issues, on the merit of each case.

Wu Xueqian said China opposes hegemonism, whichever superpower engaged in it, and will work to safeguard world peace. China has a more clear-cut stand on its independent foreign policy.

China's international prestige has risen and it has an increasing number of friends. China has more initiative in its diplomatic work, Wu said.

**Relations With Other Third World Countries.** Strengthening unity with other third world countries is fundamental in China's foreign policy, Wu said. Between the end of last year and the beginning of this year, Premier Zhao Ziyang visited 11 African countries and his visits produced good results. This showed the great importance

China attaches to developing unity and co-operation with other third world countries. It stands firmly on the side of invaded people opposing oppression. China supports their struggles to safeguard independence and sovereignty and to develop their national economies. It also supports other third world countries' struggle for establishment of a new international economic order.

During his African tour, Premier Zhao put forward four principles for developing economic and technological co-operation between China and other third world countries. These are "equality and mutual benefit, stress on actual results, use of varied forms and common development."

The Foreign Minister said that it is imperative for China to give aid to those countries with grave economic difficulties, within its ability. But, China should shift from aid to mutually beneficial economic and technological co-operation. In this respect, it is still necessary to constantly sum up experience and make steady progress.

Since 1982, relations between China and other third world countries have developed; twenty-three third world heads of state or government have visited China. This year China has established diplomatic relations with Antigua and Barbuda, Angola, Ivory Coast and Lesotho.

China has all along maintained close relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Bilateral contacts with East European countries have developed, he said.

**Relations With West European Countries.** China's relations with West European nations are making steady headway. In the past year, as China's economy has embarked on the path of a sound development, Western Europe has attached greater importance to and adopted a more active attitude towards China's policy of opening to the rest of the world and readjusting its external economic relations. The European Community has instituted regular negotiations with China.

In early November the President of the Commission of the European Community, Gaston Thorn, visited China and decided to upgrade the diplomatic relations of the European Economic Community with China to relations with the European Community as a whole (including European Coal and Steel Community and European Atomic Energy Community), the Assembly of the West European Union approved a report stressing China's importance to West European security and advocating greater co-operation between the West European countries and China.

Development of China's relations with Western Europe is of great importance to both sides in the political and economic fields, he said.

**Sino-Japanese Relations.** Wu Xueqian said since the Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed between China and Japan in 1978, Sino-Japanese relations have been growing. General Secretary Hu Yaobang's recent visit to Japan was a big success. Standing for peace and friendship, Hu Yaobang stressed the importance of continuing Sino-Japanese friendship from generation to generation. This visit was of great importance for long-term and steady growth of good neighbourly relations

and co-operation between the two countries.

**Sino-Soviet Relations.** Normalization of relations between China and the Soviet Union on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is an important aspect of China's foreign policy, Wu Xueqian said. Since last year there have been three rounds of consultations between the vice-foreign ministers of the two countries. The relationship between the two countries has improved and bilateral trade and personal contacts have increased, he said.

But, he said, the consultations have not produced substantive results because the Soviet Union avoided discussing the three major obstacles on the excuse of "not impairing the interests of a third country." Sino-Soviet relations could be normalized only when the three major obstacles were removed, he said.

**Sino-US Relations.** The US secretary of state, secretary of commerce and secretary of defence visited China one after another this year, he recalled. They expressed the wish to establish a steady and long-term relationship with China, he said. The United States has relaxed its restrictions on technology transfer to China.

But, he said, some Americans consistently regard Taiwan as a "political entity" and an "unsinkable aircraft carrier," advocating "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan." The Taiwan issue is still the main obstacle in Sino-American relations, Wu Xueqian said.

In mid-November this year, Wu Xueqian pointed out, two serious political incidents of the US violating China's state sovereignty and interfering in China's internal affairs occurred. On November 15, the US

Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted a resolution on "Taiwan's future." The US Senate and the House of Representatives adopted an amendment to the appropriations bill concerning the Asian Development Bank on November 17 and 18. The phrase "Taiwan—the republic of China" was used six times in the amendment. These were open attempts to create "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas," he said.

The Chinese Foreign Minister stressed that the Chinese Government had lodged strong protests with the US Government and demanded that it take steps to prevent deterioration of the situation.

Now that the US Government has made clarifications and promises, Wu Xueqian said, China expects the US Government to fulfil its promise by concrete actions in full compliance with the provisions of the Sino-US communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the joint communique of August 17, 1982.

**On the Kampuchean Issue.** Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea is the major issue in Southeast Asia and is now a main hot spot in the world, Wu Xueqian said.

The key to solving the Kampuchean issue, he said, is the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. If only Viet Nam promises and announces the total withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea and pulls out the first group of troops, China would be willing to hold discussions with the relevant countries, including Viet Nam, on an all-round, just and reasonable settlement of the Kampuchean issue.

China stands for making Kampuchea a peaceful, independent, neutral and non-aligned country in the future, Wu Xueqian said. □



Guan playing Mu Gulying, the heroine in *Battle Over Hongzhou*.

# On the Road With An Opera Master

by Our Correspondent Ling Yang

**O**CCASIONALLY she surprises her audience by appearing as a man, perhaps a bookish scholar or a brave warrior. But for most of her career she has brilliantly portrayed the classic women of China—the valiant and resourceful general, the upright feudal official or the justice-upholding maiden.

In her early 50s, Guan Sushuang, head of the Yunnan Beijing Opera Theatre in Kunming, is one of China's most accomplished and revered actresses. Remarkably versatile, she plays with ease characters of different ages, personalities and nationalities: Han, Jingpo, Va, Hani and others. Steeped in the rich tradition of Beijing opera, she is nevertheless ready at all times to break new ground. In recent years, she has successfully played many contemporary roles, and in 1979 was elected vice-president of the 4,500-member Chinese Dramatists' Association.

Guan is devoted completely to her public. Often in summer time, while the sweltering heat forces many opera troupes, with their cumbersome costumes, heavy headgear and makeup,

off the stage, she and her company would leave the perpetual southern spring of Kunming for the provinces, where they open the season playing for workers and peasants.

Last May, a 70-member troupe travelled thousands of miles to Daqing to begin a four-month, six-city tour of the northeast. More than 20 operas or excerpts from operas were carefully selected to highlight the variety possible in their chosen art form, which, by mingling traditional music, poetry, singing, dancing and acrobatics, has a dramatic range not found in any Western tradition.

As Wu Zuguang, an expert on the subject, writes: "A Western opera singer, for instance, neither dances nor speaks on stage. There are no singing or dancing parts in a modern play. In a ballet the dancer has no speaking role and does not sing either. Traditional Chinese drama... includes all these and acrobatics. This calls for versatility on the part of the performers, particularly those of Beijing opera."

Thus the repertoire had to be arranged to bring out Guan's

and her colleagues' mastery of these many skills. In Changchun, for example, 10 pieces were selected, all adapted (as is often the case) from classical sources such as *Outlaws of the Marshes* and *The Three Kingdoms*, including two adaptations by contemporary dramatists.

Several pieces showcased the troupe's skill in martial arts. In *Battle Over Hongzhou*, Guan performed a stunning routine she invented in the 1960s, which has since become a standard showstopper in Beijing opera combat scenes. Playing a woman commander, she comes on stage wearing armour topped with four flags and two long pheasant plumes. Suddenly the air is alive with spears coming from all directions. She deftly deflects the flying spears with the flagpoles, creating an impregnable defence and captivating the audience with her speed and skill.

Further battle scenes were performed from *Huajazhuang*, *Stealing the Magic Herb* and *Robbery of the Treasure* (the last two adapted from the well-known folk tale *The White Snake*). As the curtain lifts,



the stage is a sea of swirling spears thrown back and forth. Guan, somersaulting and spinning, kicks back every weapon hurled at her—never once deviating from the strict conventions governing stage movements in Beijing opera.

Hundreds of these stylized movements, a mixture of mime and symbolic gestures, have been developed and refined over the centuries to conjure up a scene quickly without having to rely on elaborate and often clumsy sets and props. Though a mystery at first to foreign audiences unfamiliar with the tradition, these movements, a shorthand of action and emotions, allow for a fast-paced and lively narrative.

For instance, as the German theatre enthusiast Marie-Luise Latsch has written, the common practice in 19th-century melodrama of bringing a live horse on stage was never necessary in Chinese theatre: "Taking a real horse on stage would be extremely difficult; so a riding whip with tassels the colour of the animal represents a saddle-horse. The rider's role is practically doubled because all the horse's movements—rearing, galloping, trotting—must be demonstrated by a play of the features as well as by movements of the whole body. The performer must almost be a 'centaur.' Holding the whip upright means riding; laying the whip on the floor means dismounting. If the horse is tethered, the whip points vertically to the floor; if it is not tied up, it points horizontally. Having passed the whip to his adjutant, the horseman exits, taking his 'horse' with him. To indicate all this, exact characteristic movements of legs, feet and body are necessary."

Guan, as a master of the Beijing opera tradition, has studied

and mastered this repertoire of gestures and movements thoroughly. In *Eight Coincidences*, she played a maid who accompanied the daughter of a wealthy family to a fair in her search for an ideal husband. The actress depicted the maiden stitching the sole of a cloth shoe and twisting hemp into rope—using mime and symbolic gestures alone! No needle, no thread, no rope. Yet her performance seemed more lifelike than life itself. This, in fact, is the secret of Beijing opera. Rather than attempt a "realistic" representation, it seeks the essence of a story, the unchanging kernel of life.

Three other selections featured Guan's singing and acting. *The Beauty and the Peach Blossom* is a traditional scholar-loves-beautiful-maid story; *Picking Up a Jade Bracelet* is about a chance encounter between a young man and woman who eventually marry with the help of an old matchmaker; and *Clapping the Hands Three Times* is about the daughter of a feudal prime

minister who gives up the comfortable life to search for her impoverished lover.

The repertoire was completed by two full-length operas, each lasting three hours. Guan's roles in these last two operas were something of a historical irony. Until the early 1900s, Chinese women had not been allowed on stage. All *dan* or female roles had been played by men. Now Guan was not only playing female roles but doubling in male roles as well. In *Xie Yaohuan*, she played an upright 7th-century official who disguises herself as a man to solve a major crime, only to be eventually murdered by her scheming colleagues. In *Lu Bu and Diao Chan*, she started as a beautiful singer who presents herself to a swashbuckling official as part of a plot to get rid of him; in the latter half, she played the underdog General Lu Bu, whose pride is mixed with a deep sorrow.

The tour brought Guan and her colleagues into contact with many local opera actors and actresses who came to imitate

Guan Sushuang demonstrates a particular stage movement to her colleagues.



the master and seek advice. One young actress from Mudanjiang, Heilongjiang Province, travelled with the troupe for the entire tour simply to have a

chance to watch her acting and learn from her. Guan, moved by her eagerness for knowledge, finally accepted her as a student.

Even performers from other schools of Chinese theatre came to learn, knowing that Beijing opera, with a history of more than 200 years, has developed



Sheng



Jing



Dan



Chou

## Beijing Opera

**B**EIJING opera, known for its superb singing, acting, dancing, costumes and martial arts, is the most popular and representative of the 300 schools of Chinese folk theatre. It began to evolve into its present form about 200 years ago during the Qing Dynasty, when *huiju* opera troupes from Anhui Province working in Beijing, then the imperial capital, collaborated with *handiao* actors from Hubei Province. It has since been enriched by melodies and acting techniques from other schools of folk theatre.

The style of acting uses highly stylized movements which eliminate the need for elaborate sets. Almost every action and emotion in daily life has been refined and beautified. When a character opens a door, climbs or descends a stair, eats a meal, or goes riding or boating, the audiences see only the actors' mime-like action, which must follow strict theatrical conventions. When a major character enters or a dance ends, the actors often *liangxiang*, that is, strike a sculpture-like pose for an instant—like a snapshot—to deepen the impression of the particular scene.

A Beijing opera actor must meet exacting standards. He must master singing, acting and dancing and must learn to recite the dialogue like poetry. Those who enter the profession usually begin at about 10. At least eight years of rigid training in voice and body movements are needed as a foundation, and then the budding actor must appear in dozens of operas before he qualifies as a professional.

The roles of Beijing opera are divided into four general categories: *sheng* (male), *dan* (female), *jing* or *hua lian* (painted face) and *chou* (clown). At one time, men played all roles but this has changed in this century, with women taking over

the *dan* roles. Each general category can in turn be subdivided into different roles. For example, the *dan* roles include *zheng dan* (daughter of gentry), *hua dan* (girl of a well-to-do family), *lao dan* (old woman), *wu dan* (warrior woman) and *er dan* (evil or humorous woman).

The songs, spoken parts and acrobatics are accompanied by an orchestra, which uses lutes, horns, fiddles, gongs and cymbals. The percussion instruments are used to reinforce the actors' emotions and to control the rhythm. The arias are based on a number of musical conventions to express the different emotions, ranging from the vivacious to the thoughtful and from the lighthearted to the sorrowful.

As a rule, the costumes are bright and embroidered with exquisite patterns. There are strict rules on which role wears which costume: yellow for the imperial family, red for the aristocracy, dark red for usurpers and barbarian generals, and so on. Makeup, too, is conventional. The *jing* characters wear elaborately patterned makeup from which the audience can tell if they are good or evil, straightforward or crafty, boisterous or humble. But the virtuous characters wear little makeup.

Beijing opera has drawn most of its themes from historical stories and anecdotes such as *Outlaws of the Marshes*. Of a rich heritage of 1,300 titles, more than 300 are staged regularly today. Since the reform of Beijing opera in the 1940s in Yanan, however, a number of new historical operas have been staged. Many of these have met with success. Outstanding creations have appeared since liberation in 1949, thanks to the principle of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and weeding through the old to bring forth the new" and thanks to the efforts made to encourage simultaneous development of operas with traditional and contemporary themes.

a comprehensive artistic style and system of acting unmatched in the country. As one *pingju* opera actress from Changchun said, watching a performance by the Kunming troupe is a rewarding experience for anyone (*Pingju* is a type of opera popular in northern China.)

It was also in Changchun that Guan found a promising actress who she hopes will one day be her successor. To Guan's delight, the girl is as versatile as herself and capable of playing characters of any age or personality; she has the right physique and an unaffected style of acting. Guan has taken her back to Kunming for a year of training.

Because ticket prices were lower than usual to keep every

performance affordable, the troupe earned very little from the tour. As a result, their budget was stretched so thin that had the Daqing Oilfield enterprise not offered to pay travelling expenses they would have had little left.

For the two oldest actors in the troupe, however, the real profit from the tour was the chance it gave them, which they may never have again, of seeing places of beauty and historical interest. Liang Cishan, who in his youth had been a famed *Chou* (clown) actor, was so refreshed by the experience that now at 88 he brought as much vigour to his minor roles as he had brought to his clowning 40 years earlier.

Another member, Yang Shu-

biao, 33, who has performed in mines and poor rural areas, was moved by the love showered on him and his colleagues by the peasants and workers. He made so many friends and drew so much nourishment from his hearty chats with them, he felt he was the happiest man in the world.

And to Guan, the real profit from the tour was, of course, the encouragement, criticism and suggestions from local audiences. In Changchun, she had the good fortune to meet an elderly actor who had been a popular Beijing opera star in the 1940s. Although a star now, at the top of her profession, she listened to his stories and advice with the eagerness of a beginner—and with the true humility of a great artist. □

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(Continued from p. 17.)

the foundation will still suit China for a long time to come.

### **Maintaining Independence and Self-Reliance**

Independence and self-reliance is a basic principle set by Mao Zedong for our country's revolution and construction. It is one of the three basic components of the stand, viewpoint and method embodied in Mao Zedong Thought (the other two are seeking truth from facts and the mass line).

In 1958, in a comment on a report, he wrote, "Rely mainly on our own efforts, while making external assistance subsidiary, break down blind faith, go in for industry, agriculture and technical and cultural revolutions independently, do away with slavishness, bury dogmatism, learn from the good experience of other countries

conscientiously and be sure to study their bad experience too, so as to draw lessons from it. This is our line." This remark was directed against the tendency to dogmatism and slavishness in the course of learning from the Soviet experience in construction during our First Five-Year Plan (1953-57). It was also a summary of the new experience Mao drew from the relations between socialist countries after the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. History has proved that Mao was very farsighted and had a strategic perspective to stress this principle at that time.

In his opening speech to the 12th Party Congress in 1982, Deng Xiaoping said, "China's affairs should be run according to China's circumstances and by our own efforts. Independence and self-reliance has always been and will for ever be our basic stand." This remark con-

firmed and developed Mao's thinking on the same subject.

However, building socialism independently and relying on our own efforts does not suggest that we will close our country to international exchanges. Instead, we will accept foreign assistance and introduce advanced foreign science, technology and management experiences. Our current policy of opening to the outside world and of promoting trade and scientific and technological exchanges with different countries according to the principle of equality and mutual benefit are also for enhancing our self-reliance.

In a word, Mao Zedong's theory on socialist economic construction is an important component of the system of Mao Zedong Thought. It will continue to play an important, guiding role in our socialist modernization drive and will be constantly developed in practice. □

# Xiao He vs. Xiao Wang

## Should They Divorce?

*In its column How Should One Look at Marriage and Morality, "Women of China" in issue Nos. 7 and 8 invited readers to discuss the case of Xiao He and his wife Xiao Wang. The following are excerpts from this discussion. — Ed.*

### The Facts of the Case

**X**IAO He, a native of Dazu County, Sichuan Province, fell in love with Xiao Wang, a kindergarten teacher living in a village next to his, and the two soon got married. The husband later went to college, and after graduation was given a job at the Jiangnan Radio Parts Plant in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province.

When in college and later in the plant, Xiao He filled "single" on all the forms concerning his marital status. He soon became very much taken with a girl at the college. When his father found out, he wrote to the plant leadership to protest against his son's misbehaviour, hoping the leadership and Xiao He's colleagues would help He to see his mistake. Xiao Wang also came to the plant several times to see him, but he simply refused to have anything to do with her.

Feeling disappointed and helpless, Xiao Wang wrote an open letter to the plant where her husband worked. She told them: "I came to know He, who lived in the next village, in 1971. We loved each other and got married in 1973. When he was studying at college, I took part in farmwork. Besides, I got up early and sat up late to plait mats for extra money to cover his monthly expenses. But with the change of his social status, He's heart also be-

gan to change, and he wished to look for someone else and settle down to lead a city life. Under the pretext of finding it difficult to get along with me, of living separately in two places and of a marriage arranged by the family, He told me to divorce him. I am here again to see him, but for two weeks he has refused to see me. Is there anything I can do about this unfaithful husband?"

Xiao Wang's letter attracted the interest of the whole plant. Some people held that since Xiao He was a college graduate and Xiao Wang still a country woman, the change in Xiao He's position naturally made it difficult for him to find anything in common with his wife. Others maintained that although the couple had loved each other before, once there was no love between them a divorce was necessary. Still other thought Xiao He's claim that they couldn't get along was merely an excuse, and that the truth was his position had changed his way of thinking. Many people believed Xiao He was wrong because what he was doing ran counter to socialist moral standards.

### A Divorce Isn't a Good Thing, But Not Necessarily a Bad One Either

A divorce is indeed a misfortune for a family, giving rise to many new problems and affecting the proper upbringing of

the children. Many people are right not to approve of a divorce without enough thought given to the consequences. But I don't think it is proper to oppose divorce under all circumstances, without getting to the bottom of things.

If and when the two parties involved really cannot live together because they no longer care for each other, a divorce will solve the problem. Once the pair are divorced, both parties will feel a sense of relief, and are able to remarry and start a new happier family life. What's wrong with that? It is often the wife who refuses because, believing a woman should marry only once in her life, she thinks divorce is something shameful. Actually, she is making herself an appendage of the so-called "stronger sex."

China's Marriage Law stipulates that there is freedom in marriage, including freedom to divorce. This, in a broad sense, is designed to protect women from being oppressed and bullied and safeguard their legal rights and interests.

— Tao Kai

### A Couple in Agony Should Separate, Making Two Happy New Pairs

**O**NE inevitably will have some painful experiences in one's life; of all these experiences nothing is more painful than a marriage without love, and the obligation to live together in spite of it. Such a painful experience is mentally like life



imprisonment. Marriage without love should be avoided. But when it happens by mistake, the two should be separated. A marriage which begins in love but becomes unsuccessful later on should also be dissolved. Love is not a case of one heart striking another, but a spark caused by two hearts striking each other.

I always think that on the question of divorce, we should sweep clean the old feudal ethics and let a couple living in agony separate, to make two new pairs happy.

—Liang Chang of the  
Literary Association in  
Suxian Prefecture,  
Anhui Province

### **A Man Like This Is Unworthy of Love**

HE considered himself a learned man, after having been to college. He deserted his wife living in the countryside, and was faithless and selfish. I have also had a similar experience. I married a man the same age as me, after being in love with him for eight years. Later, he felt for a younger woman. According to him, women get old sooner than men. If a man and his wife are of the same age, one day when he becomes a celebrity, he will need a young and beautiful wife to take part in social interactions. So he began to have a change of heart. I thought about this for some time, and came to the conclusion that man like him was not worthy of being loved. We had a divorce. This was, of course, a psychological trauma which never heal in my life. Seven years after the divorce, he came and told me that he didn't get along well with the young woman he married because she had had affairs with many other men. He wanted to leave

her and come back to me if I agreed to restore our marital relations. I replied: I am older and less attractive than I was seven years ago, and it is impossible for me to become young and pretty again. What chance is there for us to reunite?

—Shi Jie of Dalian

### **You Can't Force Someone To Remain Your Life Partner**

HE and Wang have been quarrelling for four years. This kind of married life is most unhappy. Wang must not insist on having things in her own way and refuse to divorce him. You can't force someone to remain your life partner when he is not willing. It is a tragedy when only one party persists in keeping the marriage contract. I myself got married some 20 years ago and we got along all right in the first two years of our marriage. Later, he was in love with someone else. When I gave birth to a child, he didn't care for me any longer and started mistreating me. I asked for a divorce, but he just didn't agree. For the sake of our child, I have to take things lying down. Twenty years have gone by, there is being no improvement in our married life. We often quarrel, and this has an effect on our child. It is too late now, much to my regret. Never think you can wait in agony for a fickle man, who gets tired of his wife and chases after other women, to change. Wang, make up your mind. It's best to divorce him.

—Ji Ling of Shaanxi

### **Love Is to Be Treasured, But Not Begged For**

MY marriage too was not successful. My husband was

immoral and incorrigible, so I parted from him without hesitation. In my opinion, love is to be treasured, but you must not beg for love. Wang may try and persuade He to come back to her, but there is a limit to patience. He has long refused to come to his senses. It is painful to live together in this way. Wang is a kindergarten teacher with something to work for. Why make herself suffer because of a man who is that heartless?

—Guo Peizhi of Hangzhou

### **One Must Commit Oneself To Socialist Moral Standards**

SOME people think the discussion of the quarrel between He and Wang is like a storm in a teacup. Why should an industrial plant, whose job it is to boost production, meddle in a thing like this? I cannot agree to this viewpoint. We all live in a socialist country, where both individuals and their families should act in accordance with socialist moral standards. A marriage and family problem improperly handled will directly affect social stability and the drive for the four modernizations. There was a case similar to that of He and Wang in another enterprise. To create a chance for their reconciliation, the leadership had the man in question transferred to another job where the wife lived. They also joined with the enterprise, where the other woman involved worked, in helping her to see her mistake. The couple were finally reunited. It is only proper for the Jiangnan Radio Parts Plant where He worked to help him, through criticism and education.

—Liu Song

## OPINION

### *Youths are not innately 'dangerous'*

**A**LTHOUGH the crime rate for young people is higher than that for adults, juvenile delinquents actually make up a minority of young people. When the juvenile crime rate in Japan reached its peak, young offenders still accounted for only 14.1 per thousand youngsters. Likewise in China, only a few of every thousand delinquents are young people. How can one describe the "danger" of delinquency as the intrinsic quality of the entire youth? These young people committed crimes not because of their innate character but because of social causes in given historical conditions.

In the revolutionary base areas during the War of Resistance Against Japan and in the early years of liberation, there were few juvenile delinquents. This social phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is only one possibility of development of young people. There is another possibility: Young people will grow up healthily with the development of society. Exponents of the "danger" theory overemphasize the first view and see this as the innate character of youth. When they use this theory to guide education of youth, they will see all young people as dangerous persons against the development of society and try to transform them. They will make passive prevention of delinquency the starting point of education. In doing so,

they will not only slacken their efforts in bringing up people of fine qualities but will, contrary to their wishes, stir up a strong aversion in young people and thus causing a crisis in education.

— "Jiaoyu Yanjiu" (Research in Education)

## COMMENT

### *Failure at exams, success at life*

**T**HE Zhongguo Nongmin Bao (The China Peasant Paper) recently carried stories about two peasants who refused to let life defeat them. Xiao Qinghe, 20, from the outskirts of Chongqing, returned to his home village in 1979 depressed after failing his university entrance examinations. For a long time he simply lay on his bed, unable to do anything, his hopes shattered. But gradually, after reading about young people who had distinguished themselves through determined study after failing like himself, he resolved to teach himself horticulture. He watched experienced gardeners, subscribed to dozens of periodicals and bought numerous books on the subject. Hard study and practice paid off and

Xiao now sells his flowers to 16 provinces and cities in China. The average annual income per peasant in his brigade has increased to 1,500 yuan, and his income is even higher.

Li Honghua, 23, from Huangmei County in Hubei Province, also came back to her hometown after failing her entrance exams in 1978. She began to raise earthworms, breeding local species with Japanese ones, which increased their reproductive capacity by 500 times. Her papers, such as "The Application of Strong Points of Crossbreeding in Selecting Good Strains of Earthworms" and "Using Leftovers From Edible Fungus Production as Earthworm Food" which appeared in Qiuyin (Earthworm), published by the provincial scientific and technological information research institute, have won praise from experts in the field. She has also written books on the subject.

There are far more than tens of thousands of such people, who have become successful in their chosen fields and made contributions to society after hard study on their own. They are found not only in Chongqing, Hubei or elsewhere in China but in the world over, and not only in modern times but throughout history. Chinese saying goes: "There is always a way out." A Western expression says: "All roads lead to Rome." There are many roads to success. Whether you reach it depends on your willingness to set out and finish.

— "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily)

## Out of retirement to help his friends

**T**HIS is a true story.

In early spring of 1978, Dong Pingan, then 62, retired from his post as deputy director of the logistics department of a military area. During the first six months of his retirement, he became quite eccentric, always quarrelling with his wife and children, who began to avoid him. He raised four dogs for pleasure and would never be apart from them, even at night. Seeing that his wife found the situation tiresome he willingly moved to live downstairs with his dogs.

To relieve his boredom, Dong visited the village of Dongjiawan in Hongan County, Hubei Province, which he had left 40 years earlier. His hometown, located in the Dabie Mountains, was poor. His cousin, Dong Renan, who had recommended him for the membership in the Communist Party of China, had to weave bamboo baskets and other products for a living, even though his eyesight was gone. This same cousin had been the first leader of an armed unit of the masses in the village during the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-37), and had lost three sons in the revolutionary cause.

During his stay, many villagers asked Dong for help finding them jobs in the city or recommending them to the People's Liberation Army. But Dong found he could do nothing for them, even had he been in his former post.

What was he to do? The area around his hometown abounds

with bamboo forests and the villagers are proficient at weaving bamboo products. He invested 4,000 yuan from his own savings in a bamboo factory for the villagers. Within a month, the villagers had made 10,000 shoulder poles and sold them all at a fair, earning 8,000 yuan.

The factory brought Dong's capabilities into full play: opening factories, organizing production, finding raw materials and markets for their products, and recruiting workers. Time and again he had to delay his holi-

**TIDBIT**

## Origins of irrigation system studied

**W**ESTERN scholars believed at one time that the system of wells connected by underground channels used for irrigation in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was borrowed from ancient Persia (present-day Iran). But Chinese scholar Wang Guowei (1877-1927) contended that the method had been developed independently in the interior of China.

Wang discovered the earliest record of this irrigation system in *The History of the Han Dynasty*, written by Ban Gu during the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). There was a reference to the areas east of ancient Chongquan (now Pucheng County in Shaanxi Province) being

days. With his help, a tung oil workshop, an apiary and a matting workshop were set up. These workshops could not have been run well without him.

One evening, a meeting of the villagers elected him brigade leader. He was excited. Forty years earlier he had taken the lead in making revolution in this same village. Since then he had been appointed and promoted on 33 occasions, each time his living conditions improving and his power increasing. Now there were no promotion, no certificates of merit or appointment; but he felt his life was rich even though he did not receive anything, money or grain.

— "Jiefangjun Wenyi"  
(Literature of the People's  
Liberation Army)

so arid that the local inhabitants sought to divert water from the Luohe River, then known as the Luoshui. Emperor Wudi (157-87 B.C.) organized 10,000 people for this project. Wells were dug, the deepest more than 130 metres, connected by an underground channel five kilometres long.

How was this system introduced to Xinjiang? During the reign of Emperor Zhaodi from 94-74 B.C., Xin Xianwu, a general, popularized this system of irrigation which spread to Xinjiang, where it was widespread in the Turpan and Hami areas.

— "Minzu Tuanjie" (National  
Unity)

## ARCHAEOLOGY

### *A 2,000-year-old tomb*

The tomb of the second emperor of the State of Nanyue dating back to 200 B.C. has been found within the city limits of Guangzhou. Local archaeologists excavated a seal confirming the identity of the body. More than 1,000 historical relics were found.

The skeleton of the tomb's occupant was found, badly decayed, in a jade suit with six swords at his sides, gold and jade ornaments near his head and a string of jade beads on his chest. Above and beneath the jade suit are dozens of jade bi (round flat pieces with a hole in the middle), each of about 30 cm. in diameter. The outer and inner coffins were also disintegrating.

The stone tomb itself is buried

20 metres underground. It has six chambers; three in front and three in back. Overall, they are 10.85 metres long and the widest part is 12.43 metres. The roof is made of huge stone plates, the biggest being 2.5 metres long, 2.2 metres wide and 24 cm. thick. The ceilings, walls and doors of the front chambers are decorated with painted cloud patterns.

More than 500 bronze objects and 200 jade articles were discovered inside the chambers. Major ones include 27 bronze chime bells found in three groups and 18 stone chimes in two groups. These sweet-sounding percussion instruments were distinctive to ancient China. A Nanyue-style cooking vessel, Xiongnu-style bronze relief plaques with designs of animals fighting, a three-metre-long bronze-framed screen, a bronze mirror 41 cm. in diameter, bronze lamps, bronze jars, rectangular bronze stoves, an iron cooking vessel and a complete

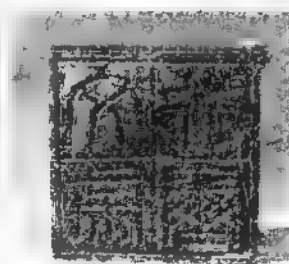
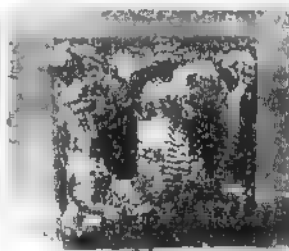
suit of iron armour were also found.

Other relics include gold, silver, iron and ivory articles, pottery, armaments, ritual objects, tools and ornaments made of wood and bamboo. The archaeologists also found the bones of oxen, pigs, chickens, fish and turtles, as well as shells and date pits in food containers.

There are also 19 seals made of bronze, jade, ivory and agate. The biggest was a gold one with a dragon-shaped handle bearing the characters of King Wen. These articles offer valuable information about the tomb's occupant.

The newly discovered tomb provides important data on the history and economic and cultural development of the State of Nanyue. Archaeologists believe it will be as valuable for research as the other two Han Dynasty tombs (206 B.C.-220) already discovered. One, in northern China's Mancheng, contained two jade burial suits sewn with fine gold threads. In the other, in central China's Mawangdui, a well-preserved female corpse was found. The excavations at Guangzhou began last August and are now completed. Local units are preparing to build a museum on the site.

Upper left: A jade carving cup.  
Lower left: A jade ornament inlaid with gold.  
Upper right: A gold seal with a dragon-shaped handle.  
Lower right: The seal bearing the characters of King Wen.



## HISTORICAL REMAINS

### *Great Wall: another section to be opened*

A section of the Great Wall about 125 kilometres northeast of Beijing has been found to be worth opening to tourists. It





was chosen during a survey along the Great Wall, as part of the effort to protect it.

Like the world-famous Badaling section of the Wall 88 kilometres northwest of Beijing, the Jinshanling (Gold Mountain Ridge) section was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) on the base of older walls and passes. The Wall served to guard the Ming Dynasty capital (today's Beijing) from the Mongol and Nuchen tribes to the north.

The section is not far from the Chengde Summer Resort, one of China's largest imperial gardens. Built 280 years ago, the resort was used several months each year by the Qing emperors.

Historical records show construction of the Great Wall started in the 6th century B.C., and more than 20 ducal states and feudal dynasties built or repaired the walls. If the walls built and repaired in different dynasties were connected into one wall, it will be more than enough to circle the equator.

Known as the "Ten-Thousand-li (5,000 kilometres) Long Wall," the Ming Dynasty Great Wall actually stretches for 6,350 kilometres from northeast China's Yalu River to the Jiayu Pass in

northwest China's Gansu Province.

The sturdiest part of the Ming Wall stretches from the Shanhai Pass on the shores of Bohai Bay westwards to Shanxi Province. Its stone facing is filled with earth and rubble, and topped with three to four layers of brick, a material introduced to the Wall by the Ming. The wall to the west of Shanxi is mainly earthwork. The top of the wall near the important passes was 5.7 metres wide, enough for five horses to walk abreast. The rest is generally about three metres wide.

In the early 1950s, the Chinese Government restored the Great Wall at three famous points: Shanhai Pass, Badaling, and Jiayu Pass, which have since attracted millions of tourists. Since the announcement that the Jinshanling section will be restored, about 10,000 people have gone to see it.

The Jinshanling section stretches about 30 kilometres at 400-600 metres above sea level, with a high point at 900 metres. The beacon towers offer a beautiful panorama of the Wall winding eastward up the mountain, the Miyun Reservoir to the south, the rolling hills hidden

in mist to the north, and, to the west, the Great Wall lying like a dragon on the hillsides.

Since the section was in a strategic spot, more watch towers were built, some as close as 60-100 metres apart. Top stories of the watch towers were designed for observing enemy movements, while the lower floors were used to store food and military equipment. Some towers have two openings for archers on each side of the wall, while others have three or four. Inside some of the towers, the granite door-frames are carved with beautiful patterns, a rare sight on other sections of the Great Wall. The roofs of the towers also vary.

An overall survey of the walls is underway, including measuring, mapping and photographing the walls and the attached structures. The data collected, together with inscriptions found on tablets and other historical relics, provide useful material for study.



## BOOKS

### What is China really like today?

#### China Handbook Series

Compiled by: the China Handbook editorial committee,  
Published by: Foreign Languages Press,

Distributed by: China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian),

Price: *Geography*, RMB 1.50 yuan; *History*, 1.45 yuan; *Education and Science*, 1.70 yuan; *Culture*, 1.15 yuan, *Sports and Public Health*, 1.40 yuan.

To any English-speaking reader, the *China Handbook Series* offers a comprehensive and systematic insight into what China is really like today. These books emphasize the process of development over the past three decades, the accomplishments, and the problems which remain. The books contain accurate statistics and other materials which can serve as a ready reference for interested readers.

Five of the planned 10 volumes. *Geography*, *History*, *Education and Science*, *Culture*, and *Sports and Public Health*,

have come off the press.

A vast country in the east of Asia by the west edge of the Pacific, China spans 9.6 million square kilometres. This wide expanse embraces a complex topography, varied climate, numerous rivers and lakes, a long coastline, rich mineral resources and beautiful scenery. *Geography* introduces China's physical geography and outlines the country's 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

China also has one of the world's oldest civilizations. According to the ape-man fossils discovered in the Yuanmou County in China's southwest Yunnan Province, the "Yuanmou Man" lived about 1.7 million years ago, the earliest Chinese "man" on record. *History* briefs its readers on the 4,000 years of written history prior to the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

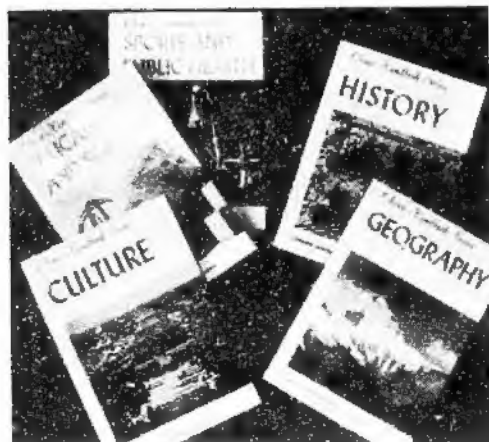
*Education and Science* covers education, natural sciences and social sciences. Education of all levels and types, from kindergartens to institutions of higher learning as well as special education, adult education and education for foreign students in China are covered in the book, complete with statistics. The chapters on the natural and social sciences give a brief introduction to the achievements in various fields since the founding of the People's Republic, as well as the current problems and future prospects.

*Culture* contains information on China's newspapers, broadcasting, publishing, cultural relics, museums and libraries. As early as the 14th century B.C., pictography was quite advanced in China. Paper making, invented in the 2nd century, and printing, invented five centuries later, provided tools for the spread of civilization in later centuries. China also has a wealth of cultural relics. There are now 242 historical monuments designated for state protection, and 366 museums and memorial halls. The book gives a comprehensive picture of China's cultural development, past and present.

Compared with the world's advanced countries, China still lags behind in sports. However, Chinese athletes have recently been competing in the world arena and have done well in table tennis, women's volleyball, gymnastics, sports acrobatics, model ships, shooting, chess, badminton, diving, archery and weightlifting. The chapter on sports in *Sports and Public Health* deals mainly with the development of competitive sports. China's national traditional sports such as *wushu* (martial arts) and *taijiquan* (shadow boxing) are also included. Detailed records of Chinese athletes in 1980 and 1981 are listed.

The section on medicine and public health deals with China's medical institutions, health and anti-epidemic work, maternity and child care, medical education and research, as well as traditional Chinese medicine.

Another three books in the series, *Economy*, *Literature and Art* and *Tourism*, will come out by the end of this year, and the other two, *Politics* and *Life and Lifestyle*, will be published in the first quarter of 1984.



Born in Xianggang (Hongkong) in 1940, Yang Zhao now teaches at the Guangxi Arts Institute. Most of her woodcuts depict life among the minority peoples in China. Her lovely works offer a glimpse at the different characters who make up a nation.



A Loving Couple of the Dong Nationality.



A Girl of the Zhuang Nationality Embroidering.



A Small Village on the Lijiang River.

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